

Jeff L. Bush, M.D.

RHEUMATOLOGY

February 17, 2015

Ray Farmer, Director
South Carolina Department of Insurance
P. O. Box 100105
Columbia, SC 29202

RE: CORBITT, LATAYA
749 Old Whiskey Road North
New Ellenton, SC 29809
Ph: 803-652-3280
DOB: 03/11/1974

Dear Director Farmer:

I wanted to write a letter concerning a patient I have been seeing for several years named Lataya Corbitt. She suffers from an autoimmune condition known as "scleroderma." While there may be many manifestations, Ms. Corbitt has suffered from debilitating skin and lung changes. In particular, she has "restrictive lung disease" as well as "pulmonary hypertension" that have occurred in the setting of her scleroderma.

Ms. Corbitt is in desperate need of a heart and lung transplant. Because of the difficulty of her case, she is ineligible to have this procedure done at multiple centers, including MUSC in Charleston, Duke University and Emory. She has been evaluated at The Cleveland Clinic several times, though she did not have the opportunity to be definitively evaluated for a transplant there. In the process of her work-up she was informed by her insurance company, Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield (ID# KKFAN2949743, phone 1-866-873-4010) that further services would not be covered for Cleveland Clinic. This was several months ago. More recently she has been told that they would continue to cover an evaluation there but they would no longer cover for any of her travel expenses. She is on chronic oxygen therapy and requires specialized transport.

Despite her work-up at Cleveland Clinic, we have been most interested in sending Ms. Corbitt to the University of Pittsburgh, who will typically perform a transplant procedure of this type, when other institutions are not willing to. We are concerned that this may be the case with The Cleveland Clinic. We have sent all records to the University of Pittsburgh and they have indicated to Ms. Corbitt that they would be willing to move ahead with this procedure. However, Ms. Corbitt's insurance company has told her they will not pay for her to go to this particular center.

Ms. Corbitt's current condition is precarious and her disease is likely to be fatal. She desperately needs intervention at this point. Ms. Corbitt, her family and I are all distressed by Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield's decision. Though the University of Pittsburgh remains her best hope, Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield has decided on Ms. Corbitt's fate based on

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Pittsburgh being "out of network." The ethical questions of this insurance decision seem profound and has likely determined her fate.

Any help you could possibly give with this situation would be appreciated immeasurably as we have no other options. Please let me know if I can provide any other information or assistance to your office and I thank you again for anything you may be able to do.

Sincerely,



JEFF L. BUSH, M.D.

JLB/lc
2/17/2015/1101500

cc: Governor Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
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Columbia, SC 29201

fcc: Jeff L. Bush, M.D., Michael Behnia, M.D. (Fax: (706)955-2740)

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